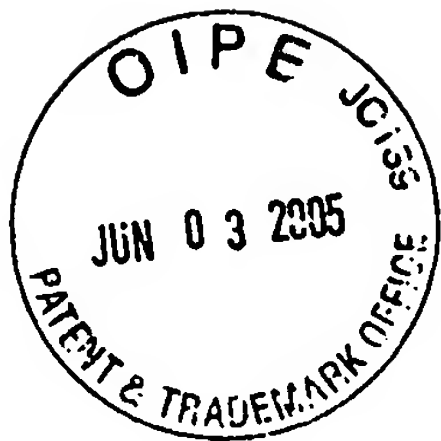
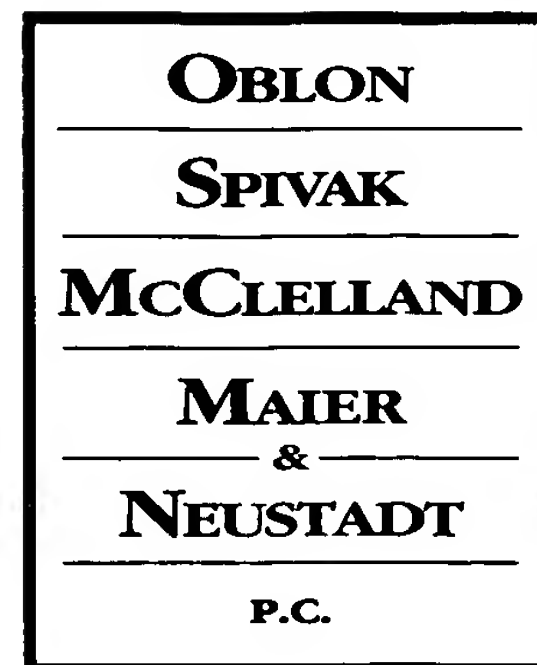


Docket No.: 243045US3CIP



COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



RE: Application Serial No.: 10/664,920
Applicants: Norihiko AZE, et al.
Filing Date: September 22, 2003
For: METHOD FOR EVALUATING FIXING
MEMBER AND FIXING BELT AND
THERMAL FIXING ROLLER
Group Art Unit: 2856
Examiner: GARBER, C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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243045US3 CIP



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
Norihiko AZE, et al. : EXAMINER: GARBER, C.
SERIAL NO: 10/664,920 :
FILED: September 22, 2003 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2856
FOR: METHOD FOR EVALUATING :
FIXING MEMBER AND
FIXING BELT AND
THERMAL FIXING ROLLER

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated May 13, 2005, the Applicants elect with traverse the invention of Group I corresponding to Claims 1-17.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement based on MPEP § 803, which states:

... If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

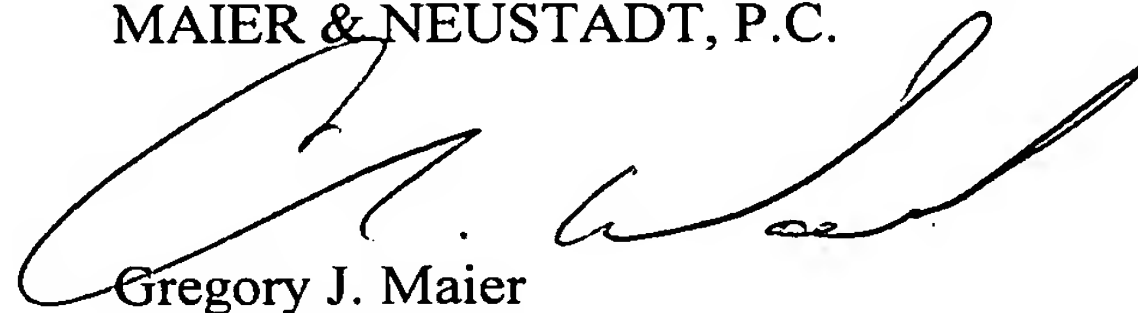
The claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding restriction requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

Application Serial No.: 10/664,920
Response to Restriction Requirement dated May 13, 2005

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the requirement to elect a single invention be withdrawn, and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-41 be conducted.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
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GJM:CDW:brf

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